

The Applicants respectfully submit that Yamaguchi fails to disclose the feature recited in claim 11 of a switch circuit provided between a voltage supply and a word line that provides a higher voltage to the word line than a positive power supply of a word line drive transistor.

The Final Rejection proposes that Yamaguchi's transistor QN1 corresponds to the claimed word line drive transistor and that QN1 is disposed between a positive power supply and a word line (section 5, lines 1-3). Additionally, the Final Rejection proposes that Yamaguchi's booster circuit 150 and transistor QN2 correspond to the claimed word-line-voltage increasing circuit switch (section 5, lines 4-5 and 9-11).

However, as may be determined by examination of Yamaguchi's Fig. 3 and its accompanying description, Yamaguchi does not disclose that booster circuit 150 and QN2 (i.e., the proposed switch of Yamaguchi's disclosure) are provided between a voltage supply, which supplies a voltage higher than the positive power supply connected to QN1, and the word line. Instead, QN2 is connected between ground potential and the word line and both the input and output lines of booster circuit 150 are connected to the word line.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Yamaguchi does not anticipate the subject matter defined by claim

11. Therefore, allowance of claim 11 and claims 12 and 13 dependent therefrom is warranted.

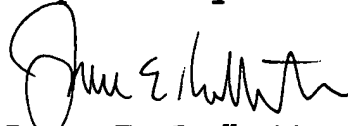
Moreover, the Applicants note that claim 11 recites a feature similar to that identified in the Office Action, dated September 1, 2005, and in the Final Rejection (by reference to the Office Action), as patentably distinguishing claims 1-10 from the prior art. Specifically, the Office Action notes that claims 1-10 are allowable due to the recitation of a capacitor drive circuit that switches from low to high - so as to increase a word line voltage - when a word line drive transistor is off (see Office Action section 10). Although claim 11 does not recite a capacitor drive circuit, it recites a switch that similarly increases a word line voltage when a word line drive transistor is off. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 and its dependent claims 12 and 13 are allowable for a reason similar to that underlying the allowance of claims 1-10.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone

the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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